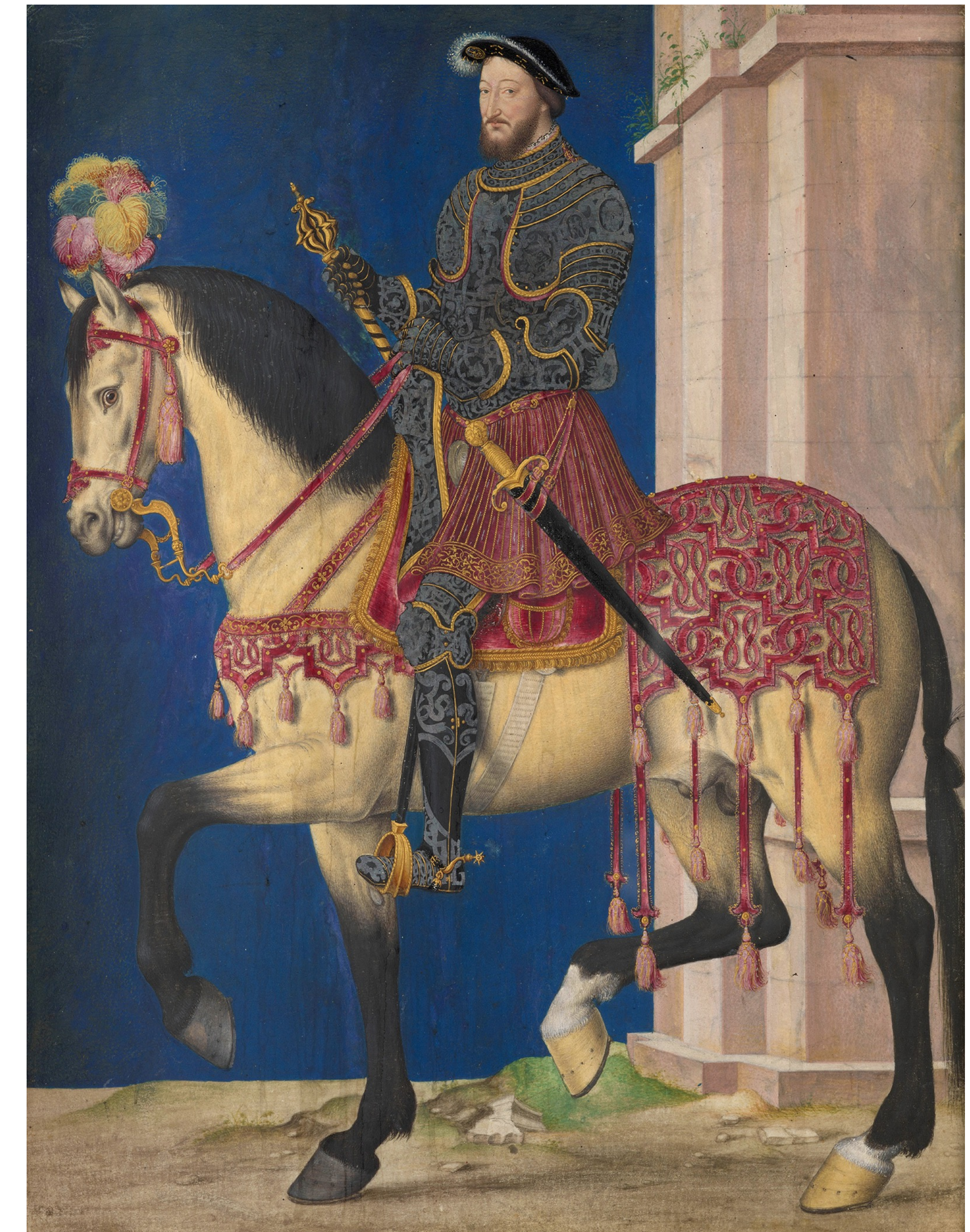


Origins and evolution of the French Language

The French language originates from Latin, spoken during the Roman conquest of Gaul. Over time, Latin evolved into Old French due to interactions with Celtic Gauls and Germanic tribes. This transformation was gradual, influenced by linguistic innovations and borrowings from other languages. By the ninth century, Old French had distinct characteristics, marking its emergence as a separate language. The evolution of Latin into French shaped the linguistic landscape of France, forming the foundation for modern French with its rich vocabulary and grammar.



King Francis I^{er} on his horse; He had a pivotal role in shaping and elevating the French language through standardization and promotion.

Notable Events across the Centuries



L'envers phonetic breakdown Lanver
 Lanver inversion Verlan

A form of slang has modified French speech known as *verlan*. The expression itself is the key to understanding the way it works, which is similar to the inversion of English's slang *pig latin*.

Translation: Verlan (L'envers) translates to "inverse"

Changes in Recent History

While classical Latin used *non* to negate an action, the form steadily became "*ne*" and then "*ne [verb] pas.*" Recent changes have made the *ne* optional, thus named "La chute de *ne*" (eng: the fall of *ne*).

1. Classical Latin:	non	Verb	
2. Old and Middle French:	ne	Verb	(pas , et al.)
3. Classical French:	ne	Verb	pas
4. Modern French:	(ne)	Verb	pas
5. Future French:		Verb	pas

Figure 1. The marking of negation in the verb phrase from Latin to Future French (optional elements in parentheses)